

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03452 152321Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 NSC-05 L-03 SAA-01 /064 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 3452

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE
SUBJECT: US-SAUDI COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF NORTH YEMEN: COV-
VERSATION WITH SALIH

REF: STATE 178564

1. REVIEWING SANA 3434 AND STATE MESSAGE IN REPLY
(178564) BELIEVE I SHOULD MAKE SEVERAL CLARIFYING REMARKS.

2. FIRST, DON'T THINK ALI ABDALLAH SALIH WOULD EVER
INSIST ON YAR ARMY AND AIR FORCE WHICH IS EXACT EQUIVA-
LENT OF SOUTH YEMEN, NOR WOULD HE INSIST ON FAR-
REACHING POLITICAL COMMITMENTS WHICH HE OUTLINED IN HIS
TALK WITH ME ON 12 JULY. HE IS BARGAINING, IN CLASSIC
YEMENI FASHION, AND HE IS BIT GAMBLER TOO.

3. SECOND, DESPITE HARD QUESTIONS I GOT IN OUR TALK,
WISH TO UNDERSCORE THAT MY IMPRESSION OF 12 JULY MEETING
IS THAT WE CAN WORK WITH SALIH. HE HAS GOOD WILL
TOWARD US, AND WANTS US VERY MUCH TO MOVE. TO SECURE
HIS TENUOUS POSITION IN THE ARMY AND THE POLITICAL
ESTABLISHMENT, HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING DEFINITE TO POINT
TO WHEN HE CUTS OFF SOVIET MILITARY MISSION AND SUPPLY.

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4. THIRD, WE CAN WAIT UNTIL JULY 29 TO COME UP WITH
ANSWERS BUT, GIVEN SALIH'S HUNGER FOR HARDWARE
AND HIS NERVOUSNESS ABOUT THE THREAT FROM THE SOUTH, WE
SHOULD MAKE SURE WE CAN DESCRIBE PROGRAM FOR SALIH VERY
SOON THEREAFTER AND TAKE SOME TANGILBE STEPS IMMEDIATELY
AFTERWARDS IN KIND OF IMPACT PROGRAM. DEVELOPING DATT ROLE
IN CONVEYING SAUDI-US PLANS IS EXCELLENT IDEA FOR LONG

TERM BUT IF (AS SUGGESTED) GENERAL CATHEY COULD BRING IN
EARLY AUGUST SOME NEWS OF THIS FIRST MEETING TO SALIH
AND IF I COULD ANNOUNCE HIS VISIT WELL IN ADVANCE, WE COULD
BUY TIME AND MUCH GOOD WILL.

5. RE 29 JULY MEETING, INCIDENTALLY, BELIEVE I SHOULD
URGE THAT WE TAKE INITIATIVE IN TABLING SPECIFIC PRO-
POSALS. WE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR SAUDIS TO DO SO. WE
SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE, WHEN WE TAKLE PROPOSALS--
SAY, FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ANTI-TANK DEFENSE--TO TELL
SAUDIS WHEN DELIVERIES COULD TAKE PLACE AND WHEN
TRAINING COULD OCCUR, HOW WE WOULD PROPOSE INTRODUCING
WEAPONS INTO YEMENI UNITS, ETC. SAUDIS WILL PROBABLY
LOOK TO US TO TAKE SUCH INITIATIVES, WHICH ARE NEEDED TO
GET PROGRAM GOING.
RANSOM

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NNN

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